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APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE: NOV 2007

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MEXICO: THE COINCIDENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S IMPASSIONED AND SYMPATHETIC REACTION TO THE DOWNFALL OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT AND THE MURDER OF A PROMINENT BUSINESS LEADER IN MONTERREY IS PROVIDING THE OUTLET FOR ANGRY ATTACKS BY MODERATE AND CONSERVATIVE GROUPS ON PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S ADMINISTRATION. THE CRITICISM-UNPRECEDENTED IN ITS SHARPNESS, HAS STUNG THE GOVERNMENT

ECHEVERRIA'S REACTION TO THE CHILE COUP WAS, IN THE EYES OF CONSERVATIVES, TYPICAL OF HIS LEFTIST POLICIES AND ATTITUDES. THE MURDER OF THE MONTERREY BUSINESSMAN ON 17 SEPTEMBER, THE FIRST DAY

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OF OFFICIAL MOURNING FOR ALLENDE, TRIGGERED THE CONSERVATIVES' DISCONTENT OVER ECHEVERRIA'S POLICIES. AT THE FUNERAL, WHICH ECHEVERRIA ATTENDED, THE ORATION WAS A BITTER POLEMIC. IT CHARGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY TOWARD BUSINESS IS STIMULATING SUBVERSIVE AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS. A COMMERCE ORGANIZATION BRANDED THE GOVERNMENT'S PRO-ALLENDE POSTURE AS SYMPATHETIC TO LEFT-WING TERRORISM. OTHER BUSINESS LEADERS ARE TAKING UP THE ATTACK IN NEWSPAPER ADS. ONE BERATES THE GOVERNMENT FOR "RISING ENERGETICALLY" TO THE DEFENSE OF THE "CHILEAN MINORITY," WHILE UNABLE TO PROTECT LIFE AND TRANQUILITY AT HOME. BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTERREY HAVE ANSWERED THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL MOURNING FOR ALLENDE WITH A FULL WEEK OF MOURNING FOR THEIR SLAIN COLLEAGUE.

THE GOVERNMENT IS DEFENDING ITS POSITION BY CRITICIZING WHAT A SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER CALLS THE "INSTIGATORS OF HATE." BUT THE ATTACKS BY THE CONSERVATIVES COULD INFLUENCE ECHEVERRIA TO TONE DOWN HIS OVERTURES TO THE LEFT AND RESPOND MORE TO THE RUMBLINGS ON THE RIGHT.

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